

the age of 12, as the president of the Junior CSO, Jessica led other child farm workers in a successful petition campaign for a neighborhood park.

After graduating valedictorian from Bakersfield High School, Jessica completed one year of college. She made the sacrifice of foregoing college to begin working closely with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers, UFW. It was there as a caseworker that Jessica first called attention to the adverse effects of pesticide exposure on farm workers. While most believed that the rashes, headaches and dizziness were from heat exposure, Jessica having suffered the same symptoms herself, believed it to be pesticide poisoning. Her persistence gave fuel to union boycotts and eventually gained national attention when it became the focus of the 1969 Senate hearing on migrant workers.

When she was 21, she was sent to Canada to enlist supporters in the union's fight against grape growers. Her passion and eloquent speaking ability won broad support from students, laborers, and church groups and drew millions of Canadians into the boycott. The success of the boycott gave the UFW the critical leverage it needed to win contracts with the entire California grape industry. Because of her warnings, these contracts contained clauses banning the use of dangerous pesticides. Later, Jessica served as the National Director of Organizing for the UFW and was elected to the national executive board.

Jessica spent countless hours registering voters and turning out the vote for numerous elected officials, including Jerry Brown in his successful bid for governor of California in 1974, and Robert Kennedy in his bid for the California Democratic 1968 presidential primary.

As Chair of the California Democratic Party, I worked closely with Jessica in 1982. She demonstrated extraordinary leadership, energy, and commitment as the head of a crucial state-wide voter registration and get-out-the-vote drive. In 1992, she worked with Fred Ross Jr., at Neighbor to Neighbor, training leaders of SICAFFE, the coffee workers' union of El Salvador, and with workers targeted by Salvadoran death squads.

For the last two decades, she continued her work as labor educator at Rutgers and Cornell Universities. At Cornell she directed the Labor In-House Programs in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations. There she trained and inspired many organizers including Chinese-speaking health care workers, who with her assistance became activists and leaders in Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union.

Despite her poor health from her battle with cancer, which she believed was caused by exposure to pesticides in the fields, she continued to be an invaluable colleague in the labor movement fighting for economic and social justice.

We thank Jessica for her leadership, her courage, and her dedication to the labor movement and to our nation. Her work will continue in the laborers she empowered and the students she inspired.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jessica's husband, Kenneth Thorbourne Jr., her mother, Margaret Govea, and her siblings. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people share their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROVIDE PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) PROGRAM

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, together with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am introducing legislation to provide permanent funding for two programs that are very important to counties and other local units of government in Colorado and many other States.

Our bill is identical to one introduced in the 108th Congress by Scott McInnis when he represented Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. He was a leader on this issue, and we are joining to work to complete this job that he began.

Under the bill, the full amounts authorized under both the payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) program and the refuge revenue sharing program would be made available to the Secretary of the Interior annually, for distribution to eligible local governments in accordance with those programs.

This would eliminate the requirement for annual appropriations for PILT and refuge revenue sharing purposes and would shield them against the kind of political shortsightedness demonstrated in the budget recently submitted by President Bush, which proposes to inflict a severe cut in the funding available for PILT.

While both programs are significant, PILT is particularly important for counties in Colorado and other states that include large expanses of federal lands. In 2004, for example, counties in Colorado received more than \$17.6 million out of a total of \$244.3 million distributed nationwide.

Congress created the PILT program in response to a recommendation of the Public Land Law Review Commission, chaired by Representative Wayne N. Aspinall, who represented what was then Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. It reflected a recognition that a system of payments based on acreage was more equitable and reliable than one tied to management decisions such as timber harvests or other uses.

Counties use their PILT payments for a wide variety of purposes, including some—such as law enforcement, fire fighting, and search and rescue—that are directly related to the federal lands within their boundaries and the people who use those lands.

For nearly two decades after the program was established, PILT funding remained level but the value of PILT payments was eroded by inflation. In 1995, Congress amended the law to raise the authorization level. However, since 1995, no budget request—from either President Clinton or President Bush—has requested more than two-thirds of the amount authorized by the PILT Act. As a result, the burden on county taxpayers has not been reduced to the extent that Congress intended when it passed the 1995 legislation.

Our bill would ensure full implementation of that legislation.

HONORING THE 150TH BIRTHDAY OF WRIGHT COUNTY

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th birthday of Wright County, located in East Central Minnesota. Bordered on the north by the Mississippi River and the east by the Crow River, Wright County was founded on February 20, 1855, 3 years before Minnesota became the 32nd state. The Big Woods, as Wright County was called then, was inhabited by 504 pioneers from across Europe, as well as Native Americans from the Dakota and Winnebago Nations.

Wright County was a part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The Homestead Act of 1862 accelerated settlement of the area, and people arrived from across America and Europe. When the pioneers arrived in Wright County, they found the "Big Woods" moniker to be an apt description of the territory—a place covered with elm, basswood, sugar maple, ash and red oak. The county grew steadily, but travel was difficult because people could only clear a few acres of trees a year. The construction of the railroad had the biggest impact on the county, as farmers could get their goods to market faster and people could move with greater ease. Today, the county has a population of over 100,000 and is one of the fastest growing areas in the state of Minnesota.

Eventually, the Big Woods region came to be called Wright County in honor of Silas Wright, a former Congressman, Senator and Governor from New York State. Buffalo was established as the county seat in 1873. Most of Wright County's early residents were involved in agriculture, and appreciation for the county's vast natural resources carries on today. There are nearly 2800 acres of land devoted to the nearly 30 county parks. Residents also make use of the 298 lakes within the borders of Wright County, swimming and boating in the summer and ice fishing in the winter.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud resident of Wright County, I am pleased to honor a place so rich in Minnesota history and culture on the occasion of its 150th birthday.

TO COMMEMORATE THE ISSUANCE OF THE MARIAN ANDERSON STAMP

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of America's most shining and influential artists, Ms. Marian Anderson. The recent issuance of a commemorative stamp in her honor provides an opportunity to recognize her impressive achievements.

Few musicians in history can claim the number of achievements Ms. Anderson can. As an opera singer, she proved to be among the world's best. Her range and ability to communicate a song's emotion were envied. Ms. Anderson often sang in the original language of